

Notice of Allowability	Application No.	Applicant(s)	
	10/644,284	DHRUVA ET AL.	
	Examiner	Art Unit	
	Paul M. West	2856	

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address--

All claims being allowable, PROSECUTION ON THE MERITS IS (OR REMAINS) CLOSED in this application. If not included herewith (or previously mailed), a Notice of Allowance (PTOL-85) or other appropriate communication will be mailed in due course. **THIS NOTICE OF ALLOWABILITY IS NOT A GRANT OF PATENT RIGHTS.** This application is subject to withdrawal from issue at the initiative of the Office or upon petition by the applicant. See 37 CFR 1.313 and MPEP 1308.

1. ☒ This communication is responsive to 8/16/2006.
2. ☒ The allowed claim(s) is/are 1-23.
3. ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some* c) ☐ None of the:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this national stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* Certified copies not received: _____.

Applicant has THREE MONTHS FROM THE "MAILING DATE" of this communication to file a reply complying with the requirements noted below. Failure to timely comply will result in ABANDONMENT of this application.

THIS THREE-MONTH PERIOD IS NOT EXTENDABLE.

4. ☐ A SUBSTITUTE OATH OR DECLARATION must be submitted. Note the attached EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT or NOTICE OF INFORMAL PATENT APPLICATION (PTO-152) which gives reason(s) why the oath or declaration is deficient.
5. ☐ CORRECTED DRAWINGS (as "replacement sheets") must be submitted.
- (a) ☐ including changes required by the Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) attached
- 1) ☐ hereto or 2) ☐ to Paper No./Mail Date _____.
- (b) ☐ including changes required by the attached Examiner's Amendment / Comment or in the Office action of Paper No./Mail Date _____.
- Identifying indicia such as the application number (see 37 CFR 1.84(c)) should be written on the drawings in the front (not the back) of each sheet. Replacement sheet(s) should be labeled as such in the header according to 37 CFR 1.121(d).
6. ☐ DEPOSIT OF and/or INFORMATION about the deposit of BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL must be submitted. Note the attached Examiner's comment regarding REQUIREMENT FOR THE DEPOSIT OF BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL.

Attachment(s)

- | | |
|--|---|
| 1. <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) | 5. <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application |
| 2. <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) | 6. <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413),
Paper No./Mail Date _____ |
| 3. <input type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statements (PTO/SB/08),
Paper No./Mail Date _____ | 7. <input type="checkbox"/> Examiner's Amendment/Comment |
| 4. <input type="checkbox"/> Examiner's Comment Regarding Requirement for Deposit
of Biological Material | 8. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Examiner's Statement of Reasons for Allowance |
| | 9. <input type="checkbox"/> Other _____ |

1. The following is an examiner's statement of reasons for allowance:

Regarding claim 1 Proett et al. (5,644,076) teach a method for determining formation fluid pressure, comprising: providing a tool 200 defining a probe 212 and a variable-volume pretest cavity 220 fluid-coupled to the probe 212; pressing the probe into contact with a mud cake 206 (Col. 6, lines 38-40); expanding the volume of the cavity in sufficient amount to produce a break in the mud cake seal during a draw-down period (Col. 7, lines 26-36); detecting an occurrence of a break in the mud cake seal (307 in Fig. 3, 508 in Fig. 5); holding constant the volume of the cavity immediately after the occurrence of the break in the mud cake seal (Col. 7, line 37), for a sufficient build-up period to establish pressure equilibrium between cavity fluid and formation fluid (Col. 7, lines 44-52); measuring pressure in the cavity (Col. 7, lines 52-53); and setting formation fluid pressure equal to measured pressure (Col. 3, lines 26-29). However, Proett et al. fail to disclose suggest minimizing the volume of fluid drawn to prevent excessive overshoot. This limitation in combination with the other limitations of the claim, renders it allowable. Weight is given to the benefit cited in the specification (Par. 0030) or minimizing the time it takes for the pressure in the tool to equilibrate to the formation pressure.

1. Regarding claim 12, Proett et al. teach a tool for determining formation fluid pressure, comprising: an elongated body 200 adapted for downhole operation; a probe 212 extendable from the elongated body, the probe defining an inflow aperture; a pretest piston pump 218 defining a variable-volume pretest cavity 220 coupled to the

inflow aperture (Fig. 2B); control means including a means for expanding the volume of the pretest cavity in sufficient amount to produce a break in a mud cake seal (Col. 7, lines 35-36), means 216 for detecting a break in the mud cake seal, and means for holding constant the volume of the cavity immediately after detecting a break in the mud cake seal, for a sufficient build-up period to establish pressure equilibrium between the pretest cavity fluid and formation fluid (Col. 7, line 37 and 52-53); and a pressure sensor 216 coupled to measure pressure in the pretest cavity. However, Proett et al. fail to disclose or suggest a control means which includes a means for minimizing the volume of fluid drawn into the tool to prevent excessive overshoot. This limitation in combination with the other limitations of the claim renders it allowable.

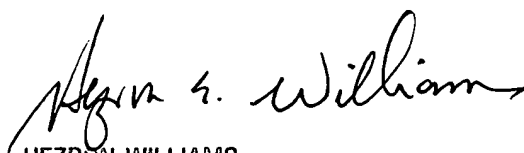
2. Any comments considered necessary by applicant must be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee and, to avoid processing delays, should preferably accompany the issue fee. Such submissions should be clearly labeled "Comments on Statement of Reasons for Allowance."

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Paul M. West whose telephone number is (571) 272-8590. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday-Friday.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Hezron Williams can be reached on (571) 272-2208. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

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Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Hezron Williams", is positioned above the printed name.

HEZRON WILLIAMS
SUPERVISORY PATENT EXAMINER
TECHNOLOGY CENTER 2800